

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-16, 18 and 19 are now pending in the application. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the consideration given to the proposed claim amendments. The Examiner indicated that the claims as amended herein would define patentable subject matter over the references relied upon in the Office Action. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 2 has been cancelled from the present application, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,678,473 (Morthier). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over these references. Notwithstanding, independent Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the features of the present invention. Therefore it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's claimed invention defines patentable subject matter over these references.

Claims 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,084,694 (Milton). This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is believed that this originally filed claim is patentably distinct over this reference. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Claim 17 has been cancelled from the present application, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claims 8-16, 18 and 19 are allowable. Applicant respectfully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of the allowable claims.


CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: FEB. 25, 2005

By: 

Timothy D. MacIntyre
Reg. No. 42,824

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

TDM/mas

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheets" of drawings include changes to Figures 1-13. The attached "Replacement Sheets," which include Figures 1-13, replace the original sheets including Figures 1-13.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets